

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINT, PO, RO

SUBJ: ARMY CHIEF REPORTS ON ROMANIAN TRIP

SUMMARY: ARMY CHIEF FABIAO VISITED ROMANIA FOR FIVE DAYS. ON RETURN, HE EMPHASIZED ROMANIAN INDEPENDENCE, CIVIC ACTION AND SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ROLE OF ROMANIAN MILITARY IN NATION'S LIFE, AND DISCIPLINE AND GOOD EXAMPLE OF ROMANIAN ARMY. FABIAO SAID HE PLANNING SIMILAR TRIP TO ENGLAND. EMBASSY SOURCES SUGGEST TRIP RESULTS FROM FABIAO DESIRE TO PROTECT SELF FROM LEFT. IT POSSIBLE THAT FABIA VIEWS ROMANIAN ROLE IN WARSAW PACT AS MODEL FOR PORTUGAL IN NATO. END SUMMARY.

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1. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL CARLOS FABIAO VISITED ROMANIA FROM FEB. 24 TO MAR 2. DURING THE VISIT HE MET ROMANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF, DEFENSE MINISTER, AND PRESIDENT.

2. INTERVIEWED UPON HIS RETURN, FABIAO MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:
(A) CLOSER RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA WERE IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THAT COUNTRY'S LATIN CHARACTER AND ITS POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT WITH EITHER OF THE GREAT BLOCS (SIC).

(B) HE EMPHASIZED THE CIVIC ACTION ROLE OF THE ARMY AND ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION IN ROMANIAN LIFE.

(C) HE LAUDED THE ROMANIAN ARMY AS AN EXEMPLARY AND DISCIPLINED FORCE AT THE SERVICE OF THE ROMANIAN PEOPLE.

(D) HE UNDERLINED THE PRIDE OF ROMANIANS IN BEING A FREE AND INDEPENDENT NATION THAT TRIES TO HAVE ITS OWN PERSONALITY IN THE WORLD.

(E) HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE ROMANIAN ASSEMBLY THERE ARE TWENTY SENIOR OFFICERS.

(F) HE NOTED ROMANIANS HAD ADVISED HIM AGAINST COPYING FOREIGN MODELS.

3. FABIAO CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE WAS PLANNING A TRIP TO ENGLAND IN ORDER TO SEE HOW BRITISH HAD UNDERTAKEN TASK OF REDUCING THEIR ARMY FOLLOWING DISSOLUTION OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE--A TASK WHICH PORTUGAL MUST ALSO UNDERTAKE. (ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRIP TO UK CAME AS SURPRISE TO BRITISH EMBASSY HERE, WHOSE ATTACHE HAD EXTENDED AN INVITATION SOME TIME AGO BUT HAD SEEN FEW SIGNS OF INTEREST ON FABIAO'S PART.)

4. COMMENT: SOME OF OUR CONTACTS IN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES HAVE SAID THAT TRIP WAS DESIGNED TO PROTECT FABIAO'S LEFT FLANK IN VIEW OF HIS ASSOCIATION WITH SPINOLA DURING THEIR SERVICE TOGETHER IN GUINEA.

5. OTHER NON-LEFT CONTACTS HAVE ARGUED THAT FABIOA WANTED TO OBSERVE A WELL DISCIPLINED "SOCILIAST" ARMY MODEL THAT HE
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COULD USE AS AN EXAMPLE IN RESTORING DISCIPLINE TO PORTUGUESE ARMY.

6. DAO SOURCES SAYS FABIAO IS UNDER EXTREME PRESSURE FROM ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) LEFTISTS TO MOVE ARMY AWAY FROM U.S. AND WESTERN ORIENTATION. DAO UNDERSTANDS THAT FABIAO DOES NOT WISH TO MOVE FROM WESTERN ORIENTATION AND TOOK ROMANIAN TRIP TO REDUCE PRESSURE FROM AFM.

7. NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE, WE CANNOT FAIL TO NOTE THE REFERENCE TO ROMANIA'S "NON-ALIGNMENT"--A VIEW GENERALLY ACCEPTED BY THE PORTUGUESE LEFT. ONE CAN SPECULATE THAT THE RELUCTANT PARTICIPATION OF ROMANIA IN THE WARSAW PACT AND THE ABSENCE OF RUSSIAN TROOPS ON ROMANIAN SOIL MAY SUGGEST TO FABIAO A DESIRABLE PARALLEL IN ARRANGING PORTUGAL'S NEAR FUTURE ROLE IN NATO. (COMMENT: WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BUCHAREST'S VIEWS ON FABIAO'S VISIT.)

8. WE ARE PLEASED THAT FABIAO HAS INDICATED HE WILL GO TO ENGLAND, AS AFM LEADERS HAVE, IN GENERAL, A SURPRISING LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF WORLD OUTSIDE PORTUGAL AND PORTUGUESE AFRICA. VERY FEW HAVE TRAVELED IN EUROPE, ALMOST ALL RECEIVED ONLY A MILITARY EDUCATION, AND VIRTUALLY NONE HAS BEEN TO THE U.S. CARLUCCI

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